

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Infidelity is a relationship between two people who love each other physically or emotionally in a context that is not a legitimate partner (Morrow, 1995). There are three types that support people to have a love relationship in infidelity. First, the strength within the individual that pulls them toward infidelity. These include attraction to sex, friendship, admiration, strength, novelty, joy, risk or challenge, curiosity, improvement in self-image, and falling in love. Second, within individuals that drive them toward relationships. These factors include the desire to escape or find relief from painful relationships, boredom, the desire to fill the gaps in the relationship, the desire to punish their partner, a need to prove one's attraction or value, and desire for attention. Third, social factors which come from the contribution of common factors in society. For instance, public disclosure of public figures who are having an affair that becomes headlines everywhere successfully attract people that much because people are fascinated and motivated by hearing the affairs of others (Atkins, Baucom & Jacobson, 2001).

F. Scott Fitzgerald is a well-known writer from the United States. His work, as can be seen in his first novel, *The Side of Paradise* in 1919, was a commercial success and critical tremendous. Fitzgerald then followed it with *The Beautiful and the Damned* in 1922, *The Great Gatsby* in 1925, *Tender is the Night* in 1934, and *The Last Tycoon* in 1941. *The Great Gatsby* has been reflected Fitzgerald's deeper knowledge (Bode, 1981, p. 181). *The Great Gatsby* was first published by Charles Scribner's Sons on April 10, 1925, in 193 pages. In the first year of the publication of *The Great Gatsby*, the novels were only 20,000 copies sold. *The Great Gatsby* tells us about the love story between Gatsby and Daisy; they have a sexual relationship in their infidelity. The novel as one of literary works can bring back the real condition of life

when the novel was written. Wellek and Warren (2013) stated that the real-life behavior is reflected in a novel that is written by the writer as a part of society.

The Great Gatsby is told through the perspective of one of its side character, Nick Carraway, from New York in 1920s. He was a young man from Minnesota. He rented a house in the West Egg district of Long Island. Nick had a mysterious neighbor named Jay Gatsby, who lived in a large Gothic-style house. As the summer progressed, Nick finally got an invitation to one of Gatsby's legendary parties. He met Jordan Baker at the party, and they met Gatsby himself a mysterious man. Gatsby told Jordan that he knew Daisy in Louisville in 1917 and loved her very much. He spent many nights staring at the green light at the end of the pier. Gatsby, then, wanted Nick to arrange a reunion between him and Daisy, but he was afraid that Daisy would refuse to see him if she knew that he still loved her. After the reunion, Gatsby began to keep up with Daisy and the infidelity began.

One day, Tom began to be suspicious of the relationship between Gatsby and his wife because Tom was afraid there would be something more between them in his back. Tom explained to Daisy about who Gatsby really was and explained that his wealth was not from a good thing, everything was just an image that Gatsby created. When Nick, Jordan, and Tom drove through the valley of ash, they discovered that Gatsby's car had crashed and killed Myrtle, Tom's lover. They rushed back to Long Island, where Nick found out from Gatsby that it was Daisy who drove the car when it crashed into Myrtle, and that Gatsby intended to take the blame. The next day, Tom told Myrtle's husband, George, that Gatsby was the driver of the car who killed Myrtle. George then found Gatsby in the pool in his mansion and shot him dead. Nick held a small funeral for Gatsby, ended his relationship with Jordan, and moved back to the Midwest to escape the disgust he felt for the people around Gatsby's life and for the emptiness and moral depravity of life among the rich on the East Coast. Nick reflected that just as Gatsby's dream of Daisy was damaged by money and dishonesty, the American dream of happiness and

individualism had been destroyed into mere pursuits of wealth. Although Gatsby's power to turn his dreams into reality was what made him great.

In this research, the researcher is interested in examining *The Great Gatsby* because of several reasons. The reasons, then, are classified into four. They are characterization, plot, style, and theme. The first reason is about the characterization of the rounded positions of Jay Gatsby and Daisy that do the infidelity in this novel and make this novel interesting. Jay Gatsby is the main character and protagonist of this novel. Gatsby is a very rich young man who lives in a Gothic-style house in West Egg. Gatsby was born James Gatz on a farm in North Dakota; working for a millionaire made him devote his life to the achievement of wealth. When he met Daisy during training to become an officer in Louisville, he fell in love with her. Daisy Buchanan is the cousin of Nick. As a young woman in Louisville before the war, Daisy was approached by a number of officers, including Gatsby. She loves Gatsby and promises to wait for him, she was somewhat cynical and behaved superficially to cover up her pain at her husband's constant infidelity.

The second reason is about the plot of this novel. What make the researcher interested is about the arrangement of happenings of this novel is to use a forward flow. The sequence of events of the novel is to use a forward flow. Start by telling the character Gatsby who is still very poor and does not have anything, who has feelings for a woman named Daisy. But in the story in this novel, Gatsby later became a figure who is rich and has everything it was never expected by Daisy. While Daisy already has a husband because she cannot wait for the success of Gatsby. Eventually, an infidelity relationship between the two resulted in the destruction of Gatsby.

The third reason is about the style of this novel *The Great Gatsby* style is sour, sophisticated, and quiet, using broad metaphors, imagery, and poetic language to create a sense of nostalgia and loss. Fitzgerald's described Gatsby as an extraordinarily graceful, stylish and elegant character, and musical sentences that flowed, underlining this impression. However, when talking about other characters, high metaphorical language often creates an ironic

contrast to the crude nature of the character itself. Many of the descriptions contain ridiculing tones, with the most sympathetic parts, sad for Gatsby's character and for Nick's loss.

The fourth reason is about the theme of this novel *The Great Gatsby*, the decline of the American Dream in the 1920s on the surface. *The Great Gatsby* is a love story achieved between a man and a woman. However, the main theme of this novel covers a much greater scope and is not too romantic. Although all the action took place over several months during the summer of 1922 and located in a limited geographical area around Long Island, New York. *The Great Gatsby* was a very symbolic meditation on 1920s America as a whole, in particular the disintegration of American dreams in the era of prosperity and unprecedented material overload. Fitzgerald described the 1920s as an era of decaying social and moral values, evidenced in his total cynicism, greed, and the pursuit of empty pleasures. The researcher uses a sociological perspective by Wellek and Warren (1993). It is analyzed by using an intrinsic approach to analyze the condition of infidelity. By doing so, the researcher give the title: **INFIDELITY IN F. SCOTT FITZGERALD'S THE GREAT GATSBY: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problems in this research are:

1. What are the causes of infidelity in *The Great Gatsby*?
2. How is the infidelity depicted in *The Great Gatsby*?
3. Why did the author address infidelity in *The Great Gatsby*?

C. Objectives of the Study

In carrying this research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the causes of infidelity in *The Great Gatsby*.

2. To describe how infidelity is depicted in *The Great Gatsby* based on a sociological perspective.
3. To reveal the reason of the author for addressing infidelity in *The Great Gatsby*.

D. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The study is expected to develop the body of knowledge to give a contribution, particularly for the literary studies on *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to be a reference for the other researchers in analyzing *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

E. Research Paper Organization

The paper consists of five chapters and each of them is subdivided into subsequent division. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of a background of the study, the problem statement of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization. Chapter two is a previous study, novelty, and underlying theory. Chapter three is the type of the study, an object of the study, type of data and data source, method and collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Chapter four is data analysis; it six basic principles of an individual psychological approach. This chapter represents the application of the underlying theory in which the novel is analyzed by means of Wellek's (1993) A Sociological Perspective. Finally, the last chapter integrates the overall discussion and brings it to the conclusion of the study.